

From 1945 until 1976, Mr. Aronson served as the Program Director for the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, a coalition of national and Jewish agencies. He helped develop policies and programs for Jewish agency involvement on issues of civil rights, civil liberties, immigration reform, church/state separation, Soviet Jewish emigration, and support for Israel.

In 1949, Mr. Aronson served as Secretary of the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization. This group was formed to lobby in support of President Truman's proposed civil rights program. The Mobilization consisted of approximately 5,000 delegates from 32 states representing 58 national organizations. At the time, it was described as the "greatest mass lobby in point of numbers and geographical distribution" that ever came to Washington.

In 1950, Mr. Aronson helped found the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations. He served as Secretary of the Conference from 1950 to 1980. In addition to being responsible for the overall administration of the Conference, he helped plan and coordinate the campaign that resulted in the enactment of the first civil rights laws since Reconstruction, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. During Mr. Aronson's tenure with the Conference, he helped contribute to some of the Conference's most productive years.

I could go on, Mr. President, for there is no shortage of achievements, but I think that these few examples are sufficient to illustrate what an extraordinary contribution Arnie Aronson has made to the civil rights of our Nation. It is no exaggeration to say that millions of men and women of all races—who may never know Arnie Aronson—have benefited directly from his dedication and personal sacrifice on behalf of civil and human rights. He has made a positive and constructive difference for our Nation. I am pleased to wish him a belated happy 86th birthday.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it is time for attention to be given to Arnold Aronson. Few students in this country, when studying Civics in their high schools and elementary schools, learn of the name Aronson. When they read about the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, and the Americans with Disability Act—each in their own right a high water mark for our Nation—they hear names like King, Kennedy, and Johnson—but not Aronson.

This is a lamentable omission for two reasons. First of all, none of these landmark pieces of legislation would ever have happened if it hadn't been for him. Second, school children across the Nation should be taught about the vital role non-elected individuals have

played in our society, and the indispensable role of grass roots efforts and coalition building—two pillars of our political structure exemplified by Arnie Aronson. Mr. President, this nation should understand that our landmark civil rights laws were born in our Nation's communities, not in the minds of our Presidents. The truth is that the leadership came from the bottom, so to speak; not the top. The initiative required for these fundamental shifts in our society were born in the hearts of thousands of individual citizens, each of whom reached out to their respective communities, and were strung together delicately and persistently by a few motivated and foresighted leaders like Arnie Aronson.

The reality is that Arnie has no one to blame but himself for his lack of notoriety. Arnie, as his friends and colleagues all know, shuns publicity with the same energy that some employ in its pursuit. But had Arnie been a self-promoter, then he never could have satisfied the complex interpersonal agendas necessary to organize so many disparate views, so many different goals, so many challenging attitudes. Arnie weaved together practically every major civil rights organization in the country into the grandparent of all coalitions, and perhaps still one of the most successful coalitions this century, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Some of the organizations that eventually found a voice under his umbrella were in their infancy at the time and now are household names; others had such distinct agendas that it is nothing short of miraculous that they were willing to lend their names to any unified cause. But Arnie is a master consensus builder, and he accomplished more than most people could imagine, by advancing the interests of others rather than himself, by the practically unknown arts of self-sacrifice and behind-the-scenes hard work.

By doing what he does, Arnie sets an example for us all. He has shown us what this Nation is capable of accomplishing, if it has the right goal in mind, and the will to reach that goal. He is an inspiration, because of his tolerance, his eagerness to hear out views that others might find offensive, his patience to find new, non-threatening ways of expressing strong opinions, and his ability to harness and channel tremendous energy in productive directions. There are millions of Americans enjoying lives and jobs and suffering far less discrimination than their parents endured, thanks to Arnie.

Mr. President, Arnie Aronson should be anything but a secret in this nation. He is a role model for us all.

PUBLIC CALL FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last week, over one-half dozen groups representing millions of Americans spread out across Capitol Hill to lobby for leg-

islation that would guarantee every child health insurance. Their message was simple: it is wrong that America, alone among industrialized nations, doesn't assure health protection for its children.

We in Congress should heed their call and work together to erase this ignoble distinction.

Bolstering their message was the release last week of the Children's Defense Fund's 1997 edition of the "State of the Children Yearbook." The picture that report paints of the state of children's health care is bleak.

Every 48 seconds a child is born without insurance. One in every 7 children is uninsured for the entire year. Nearly 1 in every 3 is uninsured for at least one month during any year. Nine out of every 10 uninsured children is from a family where at least one parent works.

In announcing the results of this report, Marian Wright Edelman, CDF's President, succinctly sums up the situation. "Lack of health insurance is a problem we can solve right now and make a huge difference in many child lives. The issue is whether we care enough to build the political will to do it."

The effects of children not having insurance are well known to us all: Children without health coverage get less cost-effective preventive care, less basic care and more costly acute care when their illness is too advanced to ignore. Further, uninsured children are more likely to suffer preventable disease and have trouble learning.

How can we reverse these trends? Proposals to address this problem are well known to all of us and simply stated through the following principles. First, make health coverage available to every uninsured child through age 18 and every uninsured pregnant woman. Second, make coverage genuinely affordable to all families. Third, give children access to coverage that provides for the full range of health care that children need. Finally, build on—do not replace—the current employer-based system, Medicaid and public-private initiatives in the States. Advocates of guaranteeing all children health insurance are telling us to act bipartisanship. And there is ample precedent for bipartisan action on behalf of children's health. Almost every health reform bill, Democratic and Republican alike, introduced in the 103d Congress provided assistance to low-income Americans to purchase private health coverage—most had special assistance for the cost of children's coverage.

In other words, we have agreed in the past that children who fall through the cracks deserve proper health coverage.

Children don't vote; they do not sit on corporate boards; and they cannot argue their case on the Senate floor. But we have a vote. We can take it upon ourselves to improve the lives of our children and their families by making our nation's children our top priority.

The public has taken note. Now is the time to answer their call. Our children deserve no less.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

At 7:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1122. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1122. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1470. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to funding of morale, welfare, and recreation activities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1471. A communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States" (RIN0648-XX75) received on March 19, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1472. A communication from the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Superfund financial activities at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1473. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules received on March 18, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1474. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Supplemental Security Income program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1475. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Consolidation, Elimination, and Clarification of Various Regulations," (RIN1117-AA33) received on March 18, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1476. A communication from the Director of the Office of Communications of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report of the Department under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1477. A communication from the Director (Government Relations) of the Girl Scouts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of work and activities for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1478. A communication from the Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to authorize expenditures for fiscal year 1998 for the operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Armed Services.

EC-1479. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Export-Import Bank Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1480. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1481. A communication from the Executive Director of the United States Arctic Research Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General and Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Acts for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1482. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Institute of Museum Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on internal control and financial systems for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1483. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1484. A communication from the Public Health Service, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Elimination of Establishment License Application" received on March 19, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1485. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the evaluation report on the Youth Fair Chance program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1486. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Oil Spill Response Requirements" (RIN1010-AB81) received on March 18, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1487. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Standards For Business Practices" received on March 19, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1488. A communication from the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Performance Profiles of Major Energy Producers 1995"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1489. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate During the One Hundred Fourth Congress" (Rept. No. 105-8).

By Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Report to accompany the resolution (S. Res. 54) authorizing biennial expenditures by committee of the Senate (Rept. No. 105-9).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany the bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Public Act of 1982 (Rept. No. 105-10).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 270: A bill to grant the consent of Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Judith M. Espinosa, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation for a term of four years.

D. Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2002.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 482. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to partially exclude from the gross estate of a decedent the value of a family-owned business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBB (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):